

Junior Fife & Drum Awareness Week

September 10 - 17, 2005

Five junior fife and drum corps from north central Connecticut have banded together to promote "Junior Fife and Drum Awareness Week", which will take place from September 10-17, 2005. The corps involved are: Colonel John Chester Fife & Drum Corps of Wethersfield, Cromwell Ancient Fife & Drum Corps, Marquis of Granby Ancient Fife & Drum Corps of Granby, Warehouse Point Junior Fifes & Drums and Windsor Fife & Drum Corps.

The directors of these five corps are already looking forward to meeting with potential new members and their families. All of their corps are actively recruiting youths between the ages of 8 and 13, so please feel free to contact any of them for more information. Additionally, there will be a number of events scheduled that interested individuals can attend to see what fife and drumming is all about.

The week's activities will begin with the Windsor Fife & Drum Muster on September 10th on the historic Windsor Town Green, and will end with the Northeastern States Meet in Wethersfield on September 17th. There will be a series of open houses as well, where one can stop in, have some refreshments, see a rehearsal, meet with corps directors and families, and learn even more about the many positive aspects of fife and drumming.

The open house date for your local fife & drum corps, the Warehouse Point Junior Fifes & Drums, will be Sunday, September 11, from 6-8 PM at Scout Hall, 28 Abbe Road, East Windsor. Contact corps director, Robin Niemitz at 860-745-0765, for more information, or stop in for a visit on the 11th!

Those who have been involved with the fife and drum community for many years are well aware of the benefits associated with membership and feel it is time to be more vocal and proactive in promoting these benefits to the general public. In this way, others will be able to learn more about this enriching, enjoyable, educational, historic and family-oriented activity.

What is a Fife and Drum Corps?

It is a marching organization that usually has only two types of musical instruments: a high-pitched fife, which is an ancestor of the flute and piccolo, and two kinds of rope tension drums - snare and bass. Fife and drum corps were used by military units in the Revolutionary War and the Civil War for marching, and for signaling in the field. In those days, fife and drum calls regulated all the events of the day in army camp life.

What are the Benefits of Membership?

- No experience is required to be a member of a fife and drum corps, just a willingness to learn, be part of a team, and build friendships for a lifetime!
- Beginners can perform, too as part of a color guard, banner carriers, or militia.
- Everyone learns to read music.
- There are many opportunities for travel, camping trips, and other friendship-building activities.
- Fife and drumming encourages citizenship, self-discipline, good sportsmanship, teamwork, dedication and pride.
- Uniforms, instruments and musical instruction provided at minimal cost.
- It ensures the maintenance and preservation of the historic music of our nation's past.